

ELIJAH'S MANTLE

It Rests Upon the Shoulders of Elisha.

STORY BY THE "HIGHWAY AND BYWAY" PREACHER

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Scripture Authority—2 Kings 2:12-15.

SERMONETTE.

The sleepy saint never is ready to receive the special unction of God's spirit.

Desire for special blessing must be reinforced by the effort which will bring one to the place where the blessing can be bestowed.

God's gifts of special power and grace are never carelessly bestowed.

It is only he who asks who receives; it is only the seeker who finds; it is only to him who knocks that the door of blessing is opened.

Ask, seek, knock. These are the progressive steps which lead from desire to possession; from aspiration to realization.

To ask is an admission of a lack and a desire for the satisfying of that lack; to seek is the test of the genuineness and quality of the desire; to knock is the settled purpose of the heart to obtain at any cost.

It is only to the watchful eyes of the saint that visions of heavenly messengers are given; it is only upon those whose feet press persistently the pathway of duty, no matter how footsore and weary those feet may become, that the descending mantle of God's special grace falls.

Between promise and fulfillment, between the call and the commission there are often many hard, weary, trying years of service which are essential to preparedness to receive the promise and execute the commission. As we contemplate the inspiring picture of Elisha receiving the mantle of Elijah, thus betokening his exaltation to the high place of service left vacant by Elijah's translation, we exclaim: "How signally blessed of God that such honor should be placed upon him." But we must not forget the years of waiting, of toil, of privation, of persecution, of suffering through which he passed to prove his fitness to receive the high commission. That was a great day in Elisha's life when while plowing in the field at Abel-meholah Elijah came and called him to the office of prophet in Israel. But there was a wide stretch of years between that call and its realization; a stretch of years which were to prove to be the school of discipline and training for the great mission he was to fill. It is ever thus. God's call is heard, the vision comes of great service, and then comes the struggle to attain the place where the call and the vision are to have their fruition.

THE STORY.

THERE lay the mantle at his feet where it had fallen.

As Elisha lowered his eyes from the heavens it was the first thing he saw. Slowly he stooped and touched reverently the rough garment of sheep-skin.

Elijah with God! His mantle left behind!

Elisha did not at once lift the garment from the ground. There was something so sacred about it. He knew it was for him. He understood that it was the sign from God that his prayer had been heard and that the yearning of his heart was to be satisfied, but an overpowering sense of the great trust imposed upon him, and a consciousness of personal unworthiness coupled with that spirit of true humility which comes from close fellowship with God forbade any thoughtless haste.

To take Elijah's mantle—Oh, how much it meant! Would he be equal to the exalted trust? Would the mantle in his hands be to the honor or the dishonor of God and the memory of the great prophet upon whose shoulders it had rested?

As he touched it reverently and then drew back and lifted his eyes to heaven in silent appeal there was no thought of superstition or idea that in the garment itself rested any supernatural power and charm. He knew it was only a sign, a token given him by God that he was to fill the place left vacant by the translation of Elijah. And yet the life and character of the one who had worn the garment had become in a sense a part of the garment itself, so that it was a constant and eloquent reminder of the way the prophet had walked, the manner in which he had wrought, and the higher, holier life after which he had sought, so that it was sacred with memories which could but stimulate and spur on to the highest and best endeavor.

As Elisha stood thus, the deepening influence of that miraculous hour reaching to the utmost recesses of his soul, there came the memory of the first time in his life when the mantle of Elijah had touched him and he had

suddenly awakened to a consciousness of God's call. Then had come an elation, a consciousness of self-importance, and a spirit of eager, self-confident purpose in the exalted place God had called him to fill. And he had been impatient for aggressive service. But the years of discipline under the faithful ministry of Elijah had chastened his spirit, and brought him low before God, so that God could exalt him. And now Elijah had gone and his mantle lay at his feet.

"Oh, God," he exclaimed, as the influence of that hour were borne in upon him, "thou God of Elijah, quicken me by that same Spirit in which Elijah walked, so that people may know as they see the mantle of Elijah resting upon me that the God of Elijah still lives and is mighty in his works among men!"

With this prayer upon his lips he again stooped and this time picked up the mantle.

"In the spirit and power of Elijah, O Lord!" he fervently whispered as he turned and retraced the pathway towards the Jordan over which but so short a time before he had passed with Elijah. So intent had he been in watching Elijah that the Lord should snatch the prophet from him ere he knew it, that he had not realized how far they had come, and during the walk back to the Jordan he had ample time to recall all the remarkable incidents of the long journey from Gilgal to Bethel, from Bethel to Jericho and then to the Jordan and on through its divided waters. As he drew near to the banks of the river he suddenly recalled the fact that the sons of the prophets from the school at Jericho had followed him and his master out as far as the high bluffs overlooking the Jordan, and he now lifted his eyes in that direction to see if they were still there.

Yes, there they were, the group being sharply silhouetted against the western sky which was all aglow with the red and gold of the setting sun, and it was evident from their gestures and excitement that they saw him.

The splash of his feet as he dipped into the water at the edge of the river suddenly recalled him to a consciousness of his surroundings, and, lowering his eyes from the excited group on the bluffs opposite, he looked upon the surface of the broad river, which lay seemingly as an insuperable barrier between him and the continuation of his journey. For a moment Elisha paused, but only for a moment, for as he looked out beyond him and again lifted his eyes to the opposite bluff he became conscious that here was the place of the first testing. The sons of the prophets were watching him. The broad Jordan separated him from them. Would he be able to go to them? If the power of Elijah rested upon him could he do less than cross upon the dry bed of Jordan as the prophet Elijah had done?

"Yes," he exclaimed, looking up to heaven, "and the mantle of Elijah is with me as token that the God of Elijah is still present to work his mighty works in Israel. Did not Elijah smite the waters and did not they obey his will?"

Even while he was thus speaking with himself he was carefully folding the garment which he held in his hands, and as he finished his soliloquy he raised it above his head and then brought it down upon the waters before him, exclaiming as he did so, in a voice which rang out on the still air so that it was audible to the group of men on the bluff opposite:

"Where is the Lord God of Elijah?"

Hither and thither sprang the waters as though suddenly imbued with life and soon a dry lane banked with water on either side stretched out from shore to shore, and through which Elisha passed.

With breathless, intense interest the sons of the prophets beheld the wonderful sight. Their eyes never for an instant left that majestic figure as it moved with such confidence through those towering waters. It was as though there was being borne in upon their hearts the consciousness that though Elijah was not there, the same mighty God in whom Elijah had trusted was present to work his miracles. Nearer and nearer came Elisha, and as his foot pressed the bank of the Jordan and the waters returned to their wonted channels, a cry broke from their lips, and, springing down the steep pathway of the bluff, they shouted as they ran:

"Surely, the spirit of Elijah doth rest upon Elisha! Surely the spirit of Elijah doth rest upon Elisha!"

They have right to the promises and may justly lay hold upon them who are God's servants; they who apply themselves to obey his precepts, these only can rightly apply his promises to themselves. Make it clear that you are God's servants, and then these promises are your own no less than if your name were inserted in the promise, and written in the Bible.—Manton.

The promises are a precious book; every leaf drops myrrh and mercy. They are golden vessels laden with the choicest jewels that heaven can afford or the soul desire. There is nothing you can truly call a mercy but you will find it in the promises.—T. Brooks.

There are too many willing to serve the kingdom of heaven in the capacity of judges and policemen.

Often the man who sits tightest in church may be wandering farthest from the Father's home.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Exposed fowls are apt to be poor layers.

The farmer may not know himself, but he ought to know his soil.

Whole oats and wheat and cracked corn make a first-class hen feed.

Three requisites to early potatoes—Early soil, early planting, early variety.

It is the early hatched chick which, if properly reared, becomes the profit earner in the fall.

Cross-breeding of sheep requires both judgment and skill. Don't attempt it if you are a novice.

Remember at this season of the year that it is important to keep the hens out of the wet and to keep pens and beds dry.

A cow turned out to pasture in good vigorous condition will respond to the fresh feed 50 per cent, better than the animal which is run down.

With so many men out of work throughout the country, it seems a shame that farmers are so hard put to it to get the help they need.

Stingy feeding is followed by scant giving. What have you gained if you have saved a pound of one-and-a-half cent feed and lost a pint of five-cent milk?

Don't let the first few warm, bright days of spring make you forget that there will be cold, raw, wet days aplenty. Look out for the stock in such weather.

Take a hint from the politicians and begin to repair your fences, if you have not already done so. Look carefully. The stock will find the weak places if you do not.

The farmer who has raised sheep and finds them profitable says that the right kind of a flock in the hands of the right kind of a farmer is one of the best kind of investments.

The boy who is brought up to feel a personal responsibility in the farm or some feature of the farm and who reaps the direct reward of such devotion, is seldom anxious to pull away from the farm to the city.

Give the boy a chance for a little independent management on the farm. Give him a ram lamb and two young ewes. He can handle them easily, feed them on a small lot and train himself to be a fine shepherd in doing it.

You will find the following to be a good ration for young pigs: Three ounces of cornmeal to one quart skim milk. For pigs over 60 pounds give six ounces cornmeal to one quart milk. When they reach 100 pounds weight add eight ounces cornmeal.

Keep records and accounts both of the livestock and the crops of the farm. The value of knowing what it costs to produce the products on your farm lies wholly in the possibility afforded by its use in comparing your system of farm management with that of others.

With body rested by the winter let up and the mind stimulated by the lectures of the farmers' institutes and the studies of the short course at the agricultural school, and the reading of the good farm journal, which of course you take, you are ready for the work of the coming season.

Good dairying includes good cows, good pasture in summer and good feed in winter, good shade in summer and good shelter in winter, good water and good care all the year round, and good machinery to run the separator, the churn, etc. If the farmer has good eyesight, he can easily see the good points of the above declaration.

The heavy horse of the draft type is the horse for the farmer to raise. Prof. F. C. Minkler of the New Jersey experiment station has this to say in reference to the disposition of some farmers to raise road horses: "If you are going to be a jockey and run a race horse stable, it is all right to go into the road horse business, but for the sake of your own success, if you are a grain or live stock farmer, don't meddle with sulky carts and fast horses. It has ruined nearly every farmer who ever attempted it, besides the environment is far from wholesome or even decent. It is just like trying to paint a barn with a feather; when brushes are plentiful and cheap, stick to the draft horse."

Cut out the suckers. The tree is weakened by them.

Try a song or a whistle with the chickens. Makes them go easier.

Sour milk fed to the chickens will be returned to you in more eggs.

Arrange the stock buildings so as to minimize the work of caring for the animals.

It will pay you to have a feed mill if you are feeding from 20 to 25 bushels of grain a week.

Be on the lookout for new ideas. Little danner that you will ever know too much about farming.

As the American farmer is known abroad—"American butter" is the name given in Syria to oleomargarine.

Overfeed or underfeed. Irregular feeding or improper feed are mistakes to be avoided if stock raising is to prove profitable.

Be careful and do not let the young horses strain themselves under the heavy spring work. An injury done will be hard to overcome.

Use a spring wagon when hauling fruit or vegetables. If you haven't one get the springs for your farm wagon to be used when needed.

Make up your mind now that next winter you will take that short course at the agricultural college which you had half a mind to try this year, but just didn't.

Podder which is scattered on the ground and run over by the sheep is practically waste, for they will not touch it, although perhaps suffering from hunger.

Not a bad idea as the horses come into the hard work of the spring to clip them. A heavy coat of wet hair is not very comfortable in a cold spring breeze.

Never think of marketing a thin horse. The food it will take to put him in good flesh will more than come back to you in the better price you will get for the animal.

Take a day off sometime and work out a scheme whereby you can sell some of your produce direct to the consumer rather than paying most of the profit to the commission man.

In pan-raised cream you have the pans to wash and where separator is used you have the separator to wash. Where is the difference? This for those to answer who object to the separator because of the work of washing it.

Don't go into the hog raising business just because you think a mud hole and a trough full of slop is all that is needed to produce marketable animals. Right kind of care and right kind of feed are necessary to profitable hog raising.

The two important elements in feed are the proteins, or tissue forming elements, and carbohydrates, or fat formers. In breeding and growing stock thought should be had for the foods rich in protein, as clovers, milk, oats, vegetables and wheat middlings.

A good carriage horse will bring from \$200 to \$300 in almost any horse market, while scrubs that cost almost as much to raise will bring only half that sum. While you are in the horse-raising business breed to a good sire and get an animal that is worth while.

The wise dairyman need not fear tuberculosis provided he systematically fights it. Test the herd at least once a year and remove those found to be infected. Receive no new stock that has not passed the test. This method is absolutely safe. It can be contracted only by contact with diseased animals.

Put in the raw material and bring forth the finished product is what the farmer does when he fertilizes his soil and cultivates it and grows his crop. Such a farmer is in profitable manufacturing business. But he who takes from the soil and puts nothing in the place of the crop removed is like the miner taking riches from the ground and making no return.

Asparagus and rhubarb need lots of manure, and scarcely too much can be applied to the soil. Whatever may be said concerning the typhoid bacillus in horse manure and its dangers to strawberries, certain it is that it does not apply to rhubarb and asparagus, for the latter plants are cooked before eating so that any germs which might be present would be destroyed.

Prof. E. T. Hart of the University of Wisconsin has devised a new milk test for the discovery of the casein content of the milk, and which is of special interest to the cheese maker. His test consists of placing a quantity of milk into a tube with chloroform and acetic acid thoroughly mixed. The tube is then revolved, as in the Babcock test, 2,000 revolutions a minute for eight minutes. This distributes the ingredients so that the chloroform and the fat in solution are at one end and clear water and the milk solids on the top. The casein is found in a white mass between these two and may be measured by the scale marked on the tube.

HOW TO APPLY PAINT.

Greatest care should be taken when painting buildings or implements which are exposed to the weather, to have the paint applied properly. No excellence of material can make up for carelessness of application, any more than care in applying it can make poor paint wear well.

The surface to be painted should be dry and scraped and sandpapered hard and smooth. Pure white lead should be mixed with pure linseed oil, fresh for the job, and should be well brushed out, not flowed on thick. When painting is done in this manner with National Lead Company's pure white lead (trade marked with "The Dutch Boy Painter") there is every chance that the job will be satisfactory. White lead is capable of absolute test for purity. National Lead Company, Woodbridge Building, New York, will send a testing outfit free to any one interested.

PROBABLY HE WAS.



Doctor—Can't you put your tongue out a little further, Mrs. Mugg?

Mrs. Mugg—Are you one of those people, doctor, who believe that there is no end to a woman's tongue?

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, ss.

FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & CO., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH CURE that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHENEY, sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 1st day of December, A. D. 1908.

NOTARY PUBLIC. HALL'S Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for treatment, free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by all Druggists. Take Hall's Catarrh Pills for constipation.

A Stayer.

"Mildred," said the prudent mamma, "I want you to treat Mr. Ketchley, who called on you last evening, with some consideration and respect. He may not be particularly handsome or attractive, but he is sensible, well connected, highly successful in business, and is regarded as one of the coming men."

"I wouldn't mind his being one of the coming men," said Miss Mildred, "if it didn't take him so long to go."

Sheer white goods, in fact, any fine wash goods when new, owe much of their attractiveness to the way they are laundered, this being done in a manner to enhance their textile beauty. Home laundering would be equally satisfactory if proper attention was given to starching, the first essential being good starch, which has sufficient strength to stiffen, without thickening the goods. Try Defiance Starch and you will be pleasantly surprised at the improved appearance of your work.

Couldn't Catch Her.

"Two just been done in oil by P. Allette Dauber," remarked Mrs. Oldstock.

"Now isn't that too bad!" exclaimed Mrs. Justgoff. "One of them smooth fellows tried to sell me a bunch of oil stock a spell back and I turned him down hard."

Two secrets of popularity are keep a cheerful countenance and say nothing but pleasant things about people or say nothing at all.

To insure the direct and quick cleansing of the system, take Garfield Tea, the Mild Herb Laxative. It purifies the blood, eradicates disease and brings Good Health.

There isn't much hope for a deaf man who is unable to hear the noise of a paper dollar.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

Assist yourself and heaven will assist you.—Latin.



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